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June 19, 2006

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Bruce A. Chernof, M.D.  
Director and Chief Medical Officer

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director of Public Health and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **PUBLIC REPORTING OF HOSPITAL ACQUIRED INFECTIONS**

On May 21, 2005, the Board approved a motion by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich directing the Department to report back to the Board with a comprehensive plan developed in cooperation with private hospitals to make public rates of hospital infections and outbreak information by hospital. This is an update to our March 28, 2006, report.

**California Department of Health Services (CDHS) Healthcare Associated Infections (HAI) Advisory Working Group**

A physician from Public Health continues to attend the CDHS statewide HAI Advisory Working Group. The Working Group produced recommendations to make HAI process-specific data publicly reportable and outcome-specific data reportable to the CDHS for quality improvement purposes. The Governor's budget proposal to support these recommendations was rejected by the Senate Budget Committee on March 13, 2006 and by the Assembly Budget Committee on May 22, 2006. The Working Group will continue to meet to provide further advice to the CDHS.

**California Legislation**

County-supported SB 739 (Speier), which was placed on the Assembly's inactive file in 2005, was removed from the inactive file on motion of Assembly Member Dario Frommer on May 25, 2006 and was significantly amended on June 15, 2006. Staff are reviewing this revision and will work with the CAO on analysis of it.

On February 24, 2006, Senator Alarcon introduced SB 1780 which would have required health facilities to collect and transmit data on nosocomial infections to the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development. The second hearing on the bill in the Senate Health Committee was canceled at the request of the author April 20, 2006. The County had no position on SB 1780.

**Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC) HAI Task Force**

Staff from Public Health are founding members of the HASC HAI Task Force. The purpose of the Task Force is to assist hospitals in reducing HAIs. The task force distributed a survey to hospitals on January 20, 2006, to assess infection control resources and practices. Based on the survey data analysis, a one-day educational program is being organized for November 2006 to prepare hospital infection control programs for HAI reporting.

### **Hospital Outreach Unit**

The Acute Communicable Disease Control Program's Hospital Outreach Unit continues to improve communications with hospitals in Los Angeles County. Hospital Outreach Unit staff currently attend infection control committee meetings in 21 acute-care hospitals, including the five Department hospitals.

We will provide further updates concerning our progress in working on public reporting of HAIs as changes occur. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need additional information, please let either of us know.

BAC:JEF:DT:sc  
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c: Chief Administrative Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors